

CLAIMS:

1. A splice system for linear connection of fishing lines, the system comprising:
a female connector having first and second opposite ends and a longitudinal axis,
the connector being symmetric about the axis, the first end connected to a
5 first fishing line section and the second end having a first opening therein,
the connector having an interior feature with a radial extent; and

10 a male connector having first and second opposite ends and a longitudinal axis, the
connector being symmetric about the axis, the second end connected to a
second fishing line section and the first end having a projection thereon
configured for coaxial insertion into the first opening of the female
connector, the projection having a radial extent greater than the radial
extent of the interior feature of the female connector;
wherein at least one of the connectors is resilient so that the projection compresses
15 or the interior feature expands to allow passage of the projection axially
past the interior feature.

2. The splice system of claim 1 wherein the female connector is removably connected
to the first fishing line section.

20 3. The splice system of claim 2 further comprising:
an axial bore in the first end of the female connector having a diameter greater than
a diameter of an end of the first fishing line section and less than a diameter
of a knot formed at the end of the first fishing line.

25 4. The splice system of claim 1 wherein the projection has a first end at the first end of
the male connector and an opposite second end and wherein the projection tapers from a
smallest diameter at the first end of the projection to a larger diameter at the second end of the
projection.

30 5. The splice system of claim 4 further comprising a neck on the male connector
adjacent the second end of the projection, a surface between the neck and the second end of
the projection forming a radial shoulder.

6. The splice system of claim 1 wherein the interior feature is a raised interior annulus.
7. The splice system of claim 6 further comprising a tapered surface disposed on the raised interior annulus, the tapered surface facing the second end of the female connector.
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8. The splice system of claim 6 further comprising a radially extending flat surface disposed on the raised interior annulus, the flat surface facing the first end of the female connector.
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9. The splice system of claim 1 further comprising a radially extending stop member disposed on the male connector which faces the first end of the female connector when the male connector is connected to the female connector.
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10. The splice system of claim 9 wherein the male connector tapers from a larger diameter adjacent the stop member to a smaller diameter at the second end of the male connector.
11. The splice system of claim 1 wherein the male connector is permanently connected to the second fishing line.
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12. The splice system of claim 1 wherein the male connector is removably connected to the second fishing line section.
- 25 13. The splice system of claim 12 further comprising:
an axial bore in the second end of the male connector having a diameter greater than a diameter of an end of the second fishing line section and less than a diameter of a knot formed at the end of the second fishing line.
- 30 14. The splice system of claim 1 further comprising a float disposed on one of the fishing line sections.

15. The splice system of claim 1 further comprising a plurality of weep orifices disposed on the female connector.

5 16. An apparatus comprising a card having a plurality of fishing line connectors removably disposed thereon, each connector having first and second opposite ends and a longitudinal axis, and each connector being symmetric about the axis and having an axial bore extending from the first end to the second end thereof.

10 17. The apparatus of claim 16 further comprising:
a slot provided on the card.

18. A method for linear connection of fishing lines comprising:
providing a female connector having first and second opposite ends and a
15 longitudinal axis, the connector being symmetric about the axis, the first
end connected to a first fishing line section and the second end having a
first opening therein, the connector having an interior feature with a radial
extent;
providing a male connector having first and second opposite ends and a
20 longitudinal axis, the connector being symmetric about the axis, the second
end connected to a second fishing line section and the first end having a
projection thereon configured for coaxial insertion into the first opening of
the female connector, the projection having a radial extent greater than the
radial extent of the female connector;
25 inserting the male connector into the first opening of the female connector; and
moving the radial extent of the projection of the male connector axially past the
interior feature of the female connector.

19. The method of claim 18 in which the step of providing a first fishing line section
30 connected to a female connector includes passing an end of the first fishing line through an
axial bore in the female connector and knotting the end of the first fishing line.

20. The method of claim 19 further comprising:
providing a plurality of the female connectors on a card; and
separating one of the female connectors from the card after knotting the end of the
5 first fishing line.

21. The method of claim 20 further comprising:
inserting an end of the male connector into a slot disposed on the card to thereby
hold the male connector prior to inserting the male connector into the
10 female connector.

22. The method of claim 19 further comprising:
providing a float having an axial bore; and
passing the end of the first fishing line through the bore of the float prior to passing
15 the end of the first fishing line through the bore of the female connector.

23. The method of claim 18 in which the step of providing a second fishing line section
connected to a male connector includes passing an end of the second fishing line through an
axial bore in the male connector and knotting the end of the second fishing line.
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24. A method for replacing a fishing line section comprising:
providing a first fishing line section connected to a female connector;
providing a second fishing line section connected to a male connector, the male
connector being connected to the female connector;
25 cutting the first fishing line and discarding the female connector with a severed
portion of the first fishing line, the male connector, and the second fishing
line section;
passing a cut end of the first fishing line through an axial bore in a second female
connector and knotting the end of the first fishing line, the second female
30 connector having first and second opposite ends and a longitudinal axis, the
connector being symmetric about the axis, the second end having a first

opening therein, the connector having an interior feature with a radial extent;

providing a second male connector having first and second opposite ends and a longitudinal axis, the connector being symmetric about the axis, the second end connected to a third fishing line section and the first end having a projection thereon configured for coaxial insertion into the first opening of the second female connector, the projection having a radial extent greater than the radial extent of the interior feature of the second female connector; inserting the second male connector into the first opening of the second female connector; and

moving the radial extent of the projection of the second male connector axially past the interior feature of the second female connector.

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